

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ADP-00 SCA-01 L-03 INSE-00 SY-10 /023 W

----- 091810

P R 151100Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7450

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPAS PK

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN PASSPORT FRAUD

REF: KARACHI 1120; KARACHI 1446

BEGIN SUMMARY: INCIDENCE OF PASSPORT FRAUD OF PAKISTANIS
ATTEMPTING SECURE F-1 STUDENT VISAS GREATLY INCREASING.
TECHNIQUE NOW INVOLVES SWITCH OF PICTURE IN PASSPORT PRIOR
ENGLISH TEST AND INTERVIEW WITH CONSULAR OFFICER. SUBSTITUTE
WHOSE PICTURE IS PLACED IN PASSPORT APPEARS FOR ENGLISH TEST
AND INTERVIEW. AFTER VISA STAMPED IN PASSPORT, PICTURE OF
SURROGATE REMOVED AND THAT OF REAL PASSPORT HOLDER REFIXED.

ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT: COMMENTS AND ADVICE
HOW POST MAY COPE WITH FRAUD CASES. ISLAMABAD: INFORMATION
ABOUT REACTION MFA TO DISCLOSURE FRAUD CASE REPORTED REF A.
END SUMMARY.

1. MOST RECENT CASE OF PASSPORT FRAUD INVOLVES MOHAMMED
NOOR, SON OF ABDUL AZIZ, BORN KARACHI 8/18/55, ADDRESS
X-719, KARIMABAD, FEDERAL B AREA, LIAQUATABAD, KARACHI.
SUBJECT DISPLAYED VERY LOW LEVEL ENGLISH COMPREHENSION DURING
VISA INTERVIEW, THOUGH HE HAD SCORED 92 ON ENGLISH PROFICIENCY
TEST. EXAMINATION OF PASSPORT REVEALED SIGNS PHOTO HAD BEEN
REMOVED AND LATER REFIXED: PASSPORT PAGE TORN, DOUBLE
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IMPRESSION SEAL VISIBLE, PAGE BORE TRACES USE OF LIQUID TO

REMOVE PHOTO, EYELETS USED ATTACH PHOTO MANGLED. SUBJECT FLED WHEN CONFRONTED WITH SUSPECT PASSPORT AND HAS NOT RPT NOT RETURNED.

2. GOP AUTHORITIES HAVE SO FAR NOT RPT NOT EXHIBITED ANY INTEREST IN THREATS TO INTEGRITY PAKISTANI PASSPORT. POST'S REPORT OF PREVIOUS CASE (REF A) TO PASSPORT OFFICE, POLICE, HOME MINISTRY, OTHER AUTHORITIES, ELICITED NO RPT NO RESPONSE. POST ALSO HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED OF ANY REACTION FROM MFA IN ISLAMABAD. USE OF GOP IMPRESSION SEAL IN ABOVE CASE STRONGLY SUGGEST INVOLVEMENT OF PASSPORT OFFICE STAFF BUT THIS WILL BE DIFFICULT TO SUBSTANTIATE WITHOUT CLOSE GOP COOPERATION.

3. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE INCIDENCE PASSPORT FRAUD INVOLVING SUBSTITUTION PHOTOS MIGHT BE MUCH HIGHER THAN TWO CASES IN TWO MONTHS WOULD APPEAR INDICATE. SEVERAL INFORMANTS HAVE TOLD US THAT MANY VISA APPLICANTS ARE HAVING SUBSTITUTES APPEAR ON THEIR BEHALF FOR ENGLISH TEST AND VISA INTERVIEW, AFTER WHICH THEY REPLACE OWN PICTURE IN PASSPORT AND PROCEED U.S. TWO CASES THUS FAR DETECTED FAIRLY CRUDELY DONE AND EASILY DETECTABLE.

WE FEEL THAT MISTAKES MADE IN PASSPORT PHOTO SUBSTITUTION ARE BEING CORRECTED BY CONSPIRATORS AND THAT SUBSTITUTIONS WILL GROW MORE DIFFICULT TO DETECT. DETECTION ALSO MADE DIFFICULT BY SOMEWHAT CARELESS WAY THAT PHOTOS ARE ORIGINALLY ATTACHED. HARD TO TELL WHETHER PHOTO AFFIXED TO PAGE BEARING TRACES GLUE, CREASES HAS BEEN SUBSTITUTED OR WHETHER IT CARELESSLY AFFIXED BY PASSPORT ISSUING OFFICE. IN ADDITION, PASSING RATE ON ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TEST REQUIRED OF ALL VISA APPLICANTS HAS INCREASED IN PAST FEW WEEKS FROM 20 PERCENT TO OVER 60 PERCENT WITH NO RPT NO CHANGES IN TEST OR PROCEDURES, THUS LEADING US BELIEVE SUBSTITUTIONS BECOMING MORE WIDESPREAD. (PASSPORT REQUIRED FOR VERIFICATION IDENTITY, ADMISSION TO ENGLISH TEST.)

4. POST EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT CASES FRAUD WHICH COMPROMISE OUR ABILITY TO GUARANTEE THAT PERSON WHO FULFILLED PREREQUISITES FOR ISSUANCE NONIMMIGRANT VISA IS IN FACT PERSON WHO WILL ENTER U.S. MOREOVER, IF PHOTO SUBSTITUTIONS EASY FOR STUDENT VISA APPLICANTS TO ACCOMPLISH, THEY EQUALLY EASY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR PERSONS WITH MORE HARMFUL MOTIVES.

5. ONLY COURSE OF ACTION WHICH POST FEELS FEASIBLE AT MOMENT IS TO CONTINUE TO SCRUTINIZE PASSPORTS CLOSELY AND TO TAKE AT LEAST SAMPLING OF SUSPICIOUS PASSPORTS TO PASSPORT ISSUING AUTHORITY FOR AUTHENTICATION. THIS PROCEDURE MAY INVOLVE CHECKING 50 TO 75 PASSPORTS PER WEEK, AND WE ARE ATTEMPTING SECURE PERMISSION FROM REGIONAL PASSPORT OFFICE FOR SUCH A

PROCEDURE. PROCEDURE MAY OCCASION UNAVOIDABLE DELAYS FOR
VISA APPLICANTS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT - ANY ADVICE OR
COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. IF OTHER POSTS HAVE HAD
SIMILAR PROBLEM HOW HAVE THEY HANDLED IT? ISLAMABAD - PLEASE
PASS TO US REACTIONS AND ADVICE MFA OR OTHER APPROPRIATE
GOP OFFICIALS TO PROBLEM. PROMPT RESPONSES APPRECIATED.
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